

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8959

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, VE

SUBJECT: CTV DELEGATE TO WCL CONFERENCE ON MULTINATIONALS

1. THE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) HAS NAMED GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE METAL WORKERS FEDERATION (FETROMETAL) ANDRES MERCAU TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN MONTREAL, CANADA FROM JUNE 12-15. THE CONFERENCE IS SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKER SOLIDARITY WHICH MERCAU DESCRIBES AS BEING AFFILIATED WITH THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL). MERCAU IS A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY (COPEI) AND IS AFFILIATED WITH THE WCL THROUGH THE COPEI LABOR BUREAU. THE CTV ITSELF IS AFFILIATED WITH THE ICFTU, BUT GIVEN THE PLURALISTIC NATURE OF VENEZUELAN LABOR ITS OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION IN A WCL SPONSORED EVENT IS NOT UNUSUAL.

2. COMMENT: MERCAU'S NOMINATION TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WILL GET HIM OUT OF VENEZUELA DURING A PERIOD WHEN THE GOVERNING ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY LEADERSHIP OF THE CTV IS TRYING HARD TO IMPROVE AD'S POSITION AMONG THE WILDCAT-PRONE IRON MINERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE UNION ELECTIONS NEEDED TO FORM A SINGLE IRON MINERS UNION. MERCAU, AS THE HIGHEST-RANKING OPPOSITION MEMBER OF THE FETROMETAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS BEEN ACTIVELY

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CAMPAIGNING FOR COPEI IN THE IRON MINES. MERCAU IS STRONGLY

OPPOSED TO BOTH THE AFL-CIO AND U.S. POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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